

Carol Coles

From: Carol Coles
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 3:28 PM
To: *everyone; _Council Members; Andy Rieger; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; Joy Hampton; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily; OU Nightly
Subject: Rain Barrel Workshop

City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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The City of Norman Environmental Control Advisory Board and the Cleveland County Conservation District have scheduled a Rain Barrel Workshop and Distribution for October 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

To receive a free barrel you will need to register online beginning at 9:00 a.m. Monday, October 1, at www.greennorman.org. Due to a limited number of these barrels, only the first 70 households to register will receive a barrel. Each resident will need to attend one of two 30 minute workshops. The times for the workshops are 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Barrels will be distributed one to a household. Forest Building Materials, 1051 W. Rock Creek Road, is donating its site for the distribution. Please enter the southwest doors. They will have parts available to all participants at a discount to convert the barrels to rain barrels. The distribution is limited to Cleveland County residents so all interested parties are asked to bring a utility bill or other form of proof of residency in Cleveland County. This distribution is a part of the City of Norman's continuing educational effort in wise water resource usage. For additional information, please call the City of Norman's Environmental Services Division at 292-9731.

What's a rain barrel? In Oklahoma, we all realize that water is a precious resource in need of conservation. Harvesting rain in a rain barrel is simply collecting and storing rain water from your rooftop that would otherwise run off to local streams. The stored rain barrel water can then be used to water lawns and gardens, wash cars or for similar uses. Using potable water (water suitable for drinking or cooking) for these applications is a waste of an important resource that is an ever-increasing demand.

Rain barrels also help to address storm water pollution. Rain is relatively clean when it falls from the sky but it picks up pollutants as it flows across parking lots, streets and other areas. Storm water flows into drains and eventually into streams and ponds. Almost all the rain that falls on your rooftop runs off onto the landscape from gutters and downspouts. Discounting evaporation and leakage, and assuming a horizontal surface, just 1/10 of an inch of rain on a 1000 square foot roof produces about 62 gallons of water!